Know your options for...
COVID-19 TESTING

Testing remains a key tool to keeping Missouri safe and open for the activities we love. State-sponsored community testing events are free COVID-19 testing options that are available to anyone without a specific reason for needed for testing.

Why does testing remain important?

In order to put COVID-19 behind us, we have to be able to control the virus. Those who may have the virus need to know so they can take measures to keep from infecting others. Testing also helps inform us of the status of viral activity in our communities so we can make informed and safe decisions.

Who benefits from COVID-19 testing?

A simple test can provide peace of mind for you, your family and your community. Testing is not only for those who have symptoms, but important for periodic surveillance especially when interacting with vulnerable populations and crowds. Many camps, events, and travel now require evidence of a test result before participation.

A COVID-19 test is a one-time assessment, and will only show if the individual is infected at the time of the test. For those experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, testing is highly recommended. Those who have not been fully vaccinated and have had significant contact with someone with confirmed COVID-19 should get tested.

Where can I get tested for COVID-19?

The State continues to offer community testing events in areas throughout the state in a regular weekly cadence. Additionally, most urgent care clinics now have rapid testing resources available. Free at-home kits are available to order, and rapid tests are available over the counter through several retailers.

Contact your health care provider or an urgent care clinic near you, or visit Health.Mo.Gov/CommunityTest to find additional testing options.

MOStopsCovid.com

STRONGER COMMUNITIES, STRONGER TOGETHER.

Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services

Can I test for COVID-19 at home?

Yes! At-home tests that check for presence of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, are available for free to Missouri residents.

A Missourian choosing this testing option will order the [free testing kit online](#), and the kit will be delivered to the home in two days. The [kit](#) is good for six months and comes with [easy-to-follow instructions](#). Once the individual performs the collection by nasal swab, the testing kit needs to be returned to a FedEx collection site within 24 hours. Shipping is also free. Test results are then provided via email within two days.

These tests were authorized for emergency use by the FDA.

Does it cost to get tested for COVID-19?

State-sponsored community testing events are free COVID-19 testing options that are available to anyone without a specific reason for needed for testing. [At-home tests](#) that check for presence of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, are also available for free to Missouri residents (see above). Clinics or other providers may charge a fee or bill your insurance, if applicable.

What types of testing are available?

Testing has become widely available in the United States. Below are the types of tests you may seek, depending on your situation.

- **PCR:** high-sensitivity, high-specificity tests used to diagnose a current or recent COVID-19 infection by detecting genetic material specific to SARS-COV-2.
- **Antigen:** used to diagnose a COVID-19 infection by detecting a specific protein from the virus. These tests often have a quick turnaround time and are referred to as "rapid tests."
- **Antibody (serology):** used to detect antibodies made by your immune system in response to a COVID-19 exposure. Antibody tests are not used to diagnose active infection.

To learn more about testing types and results, visit [CDC.gov](#).

How is Missouri testing for the presence of COVID-19 variants?

Missouri is participating in the national surveillance for COVID-19 variants of concern. Our state's public health laboratory is sequencing a limited amount of samples for presence of genetic material specific to each variant. To see the latest data, visit [CDC.gov](#).

Since February 2021, the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services has been collaborating with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the University of Missouri to test wastewater samples for the presence of COVID-19variants in our communities. You can learn more about Missouri's Sewershed Surveillance Project by clicking here at [Health.Mo.Gov/coronavirus](#).